

THE
BOVRIL
BOOK OF
TRICKS



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sinking feeling!



CAN YOU DO THESE?

THE BOVRIL BOOK OF TRICKS THAT ANYONE CAN DO. TRY THESE TRICKS ON YOUR FRIENDS AT THE TEA TABLE. ON A RAILWAY JOURNEY TAKE WITH YOU THE BOOK, A BOX OF MATCHES, AND A DOZEN COINS, PENNIES AND HALFPENCE

Tricks with Matches

1. Matches please.

We have made a little shape with twelve matches. You see there are five squares.

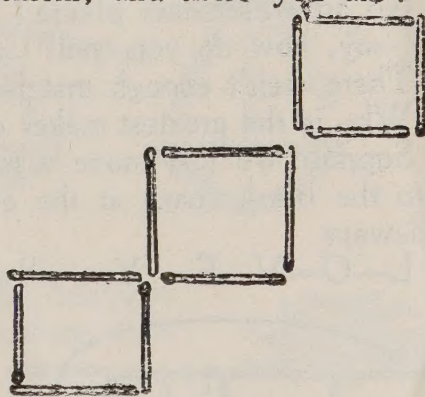
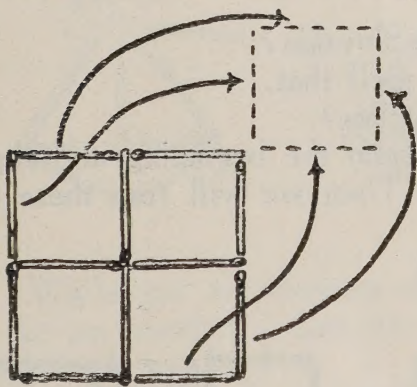
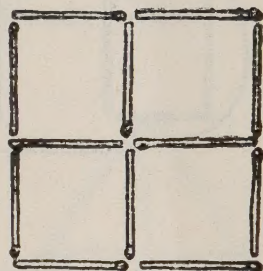
Caught you that time! There are only Four.

Hold on—what about the big square? Four little squares and one big one make five squares, don't they? I seem to have learnt that at school. But perhaps you didn't take Mathematics.

Can you move four of the matches and leave three squares?

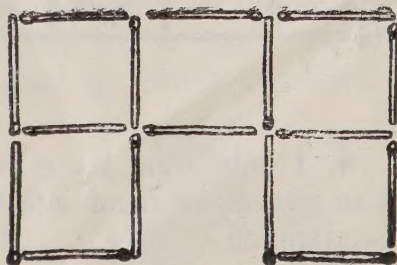
Keep on trying. There is nothing like it.

Give in? A little circling movement, and there you are!



2. Look at this little shape that Father has made. Yes, do look at Father! Isn't he clever? He did it all by himself!

You wait till I catch you bending, my boy! Well, can you move three matches and change the five squares into four?



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We can easily do that. Just move this—and this—and—no, that's wrong!

Keep on trying, my boy!

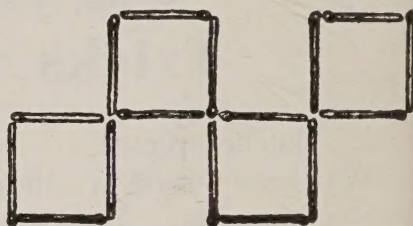
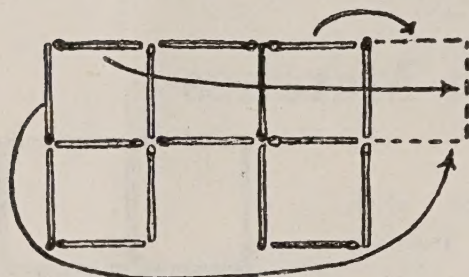
It's all right, Father. Move this—and this—and—

Father isn't such a dud as you thought. What?

We don't believe YOU can do it!

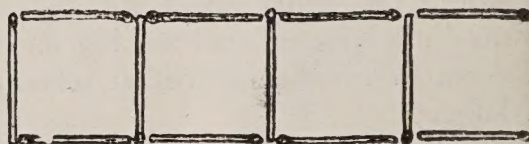
Which means you give in! Now watch Father! He moves these two—and then this one. There you are!

We do believe Father is right! Hurrah!



3. Look at this little shape!

Why you have missed out a match at the end.



Let me see. No they are quite right. Now—can you move three matches and change that shape into the greatest match maker?

No advertisements please!

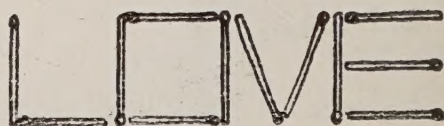
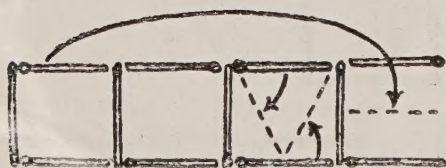
I say, how do you spell Czecho-Slovakia?

There aren't enough matches to spell that.

Who is the greatest maker of matches?

Suppose we just move a match from the beginning and slip it into the blank space at the end! Then we will turn these two sideways.

L—O—V—E. You silly ass!



4. I only want six matches. There they are. Can you make them into four triangles, without overlapping?

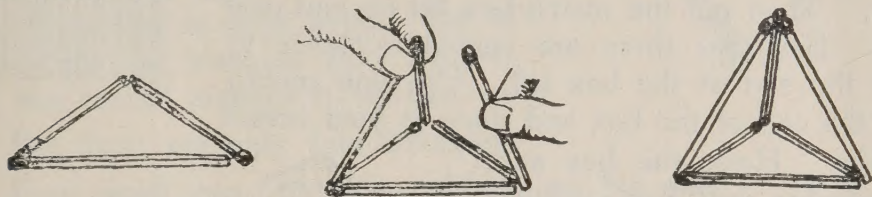


You must start with one triangle. That takes three matches. Then there are three matches left.

Brilliant. And exactly right.

Put two matches on one side. That makes two triangles. Then there is one match left for two triangles. Can't be done!

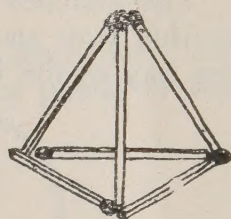
You started beautifully. The first triangle was simply splendid. Where you went wrong was in keeping to the table. Why not raise them like this:



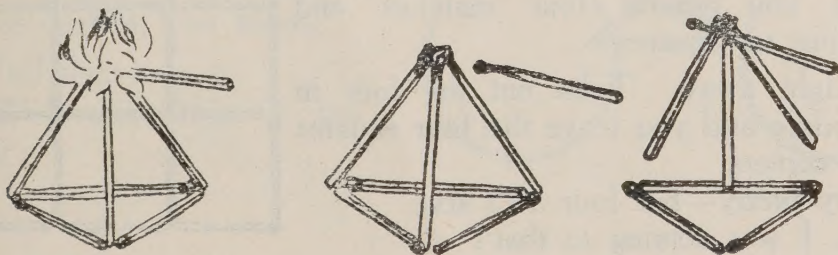
5. Keep the matches like that.

Can you raise the three forming a tripod with one match?

If they fall over while you are trying put them up again. Keep on trying. There is no harm in it.



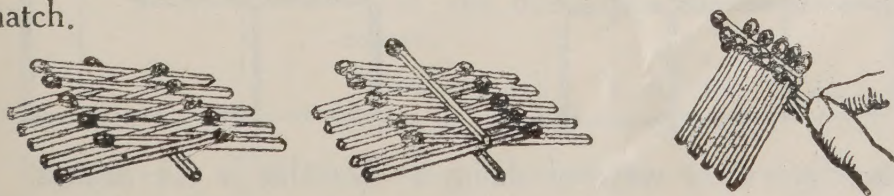
When you have done trying why not strike a match and put it to the heads of the three matches. Then you can easily raise the three matches, like this:



6. While you are thinking of raising matches put out ten matches. Can you raise them with a couple of matches?

Easier said than done, unless you know how.

But here is a way of doing it. Place a match on the table. On this place the matches criss-cross. Then put a match across them. The ten matches may then be raised by lifting the lower match.



7. And what about this way?

Throw out about a dozen matches on the table.

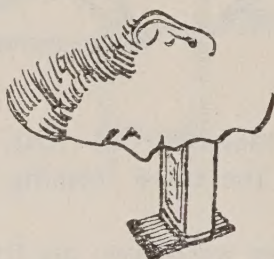
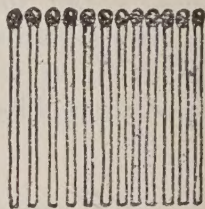
Can you raise them without touching them?

You can keep on trying for some time. It seems to be impossible.

Perhaps you have forgotten the match-box.

Place the matches in a row touching each other. Then put the match-box lid on end over them. See that there are enough matches to cover the end of the box lid. Put your mouth over the end of the box and draw in your breath quickly. Raise the box and the matches will rise with it.

The matches may be raised in this way and dropped into the tray of the box.



8. Here is a really easy one. Spread out 24 matches to make a square like this:

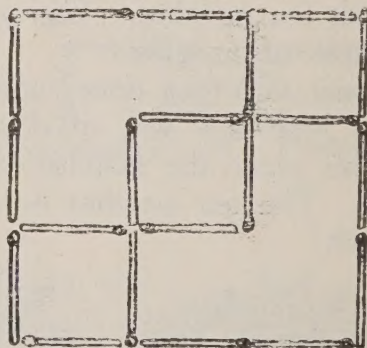
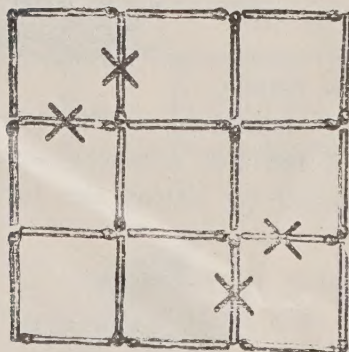
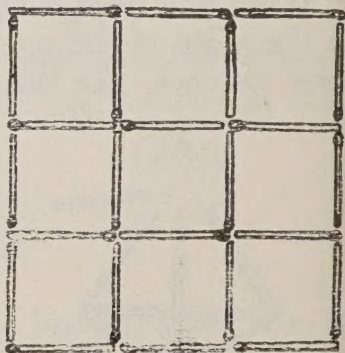
Can you remove four matches and leave just six squares?

Straight away. Take out the four in the middle and you leave the four squares in the corners.

Very pretty—but four isn't six.

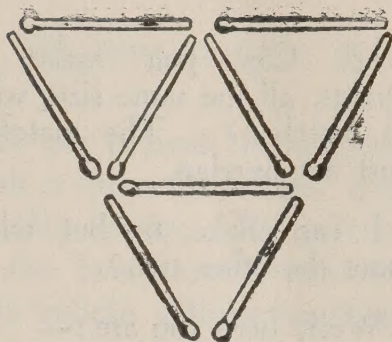
Oh, I was coming to that!

Suppose we remove the matches near two of the corners. Look!



There are other ways of doing it—but this is the neatest.

9. Can you make 5 triangles with nine matches? Here are the matches.



Well, I can make 4 triangles with 6 matches, and that leaves three for the other.

Yes, that is quite good. But in this case the triangles must be flat. If you cannot manage it, try this:—

But there are only four triangles.

Four small ones, certainly—AND one big one.

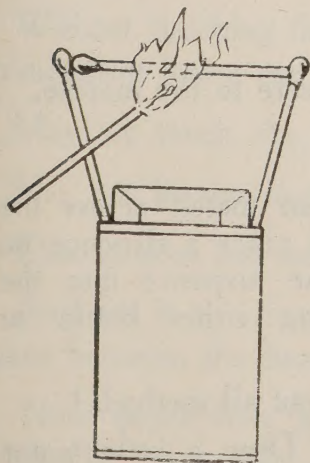
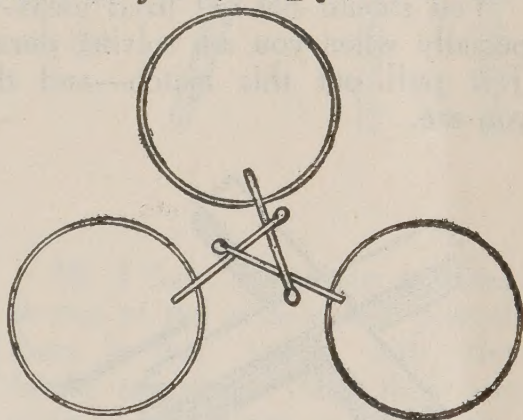
10. These three tumblers are three islands, and these three matches are three planks of wood. Can you use the planks to make bridges joining the islands?

Easy. Just move the tumblers closer.

Excuse me. Please remember that the tumblers are islands. You cannot move islands, you know.

Well then——

Well then, this is the way:—



11. Look at these three matches fixed at the end of a box. The top match fits in quite tightly.

Now I am going to hold a lighted match under the middle of the upper match. The problem is—which of the upright matches will catch fire first?

Oh, the one where the heads meet, of course.

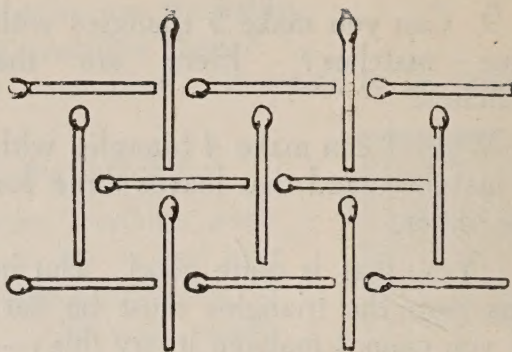
Now watch! I put the lighted match under the middle of the upper match.

Neither!!! The match has flown off as soon as the middle has burnt through.

12. Can you make 8 squares, all the same size, with 15 matches? The matches must not overlap.

I can make 6—but what about the other two?

Well, here you are :—

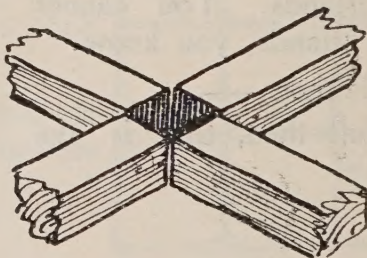
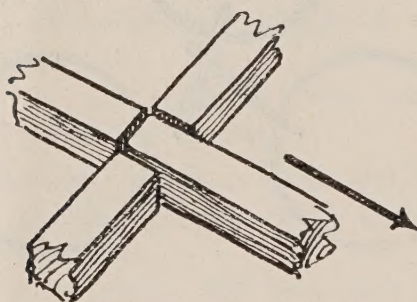
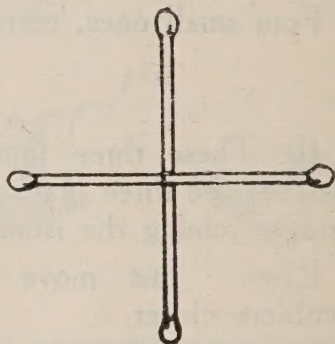


13. Look at these four matches :—

Can you make a square by moving just one match?

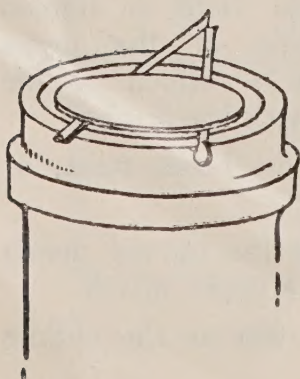
It certainly does seem impossible !

You should not get fixed ideas—especially when you are solving puzzles. Just pull out this match—and there you are.



But that isn't a square !

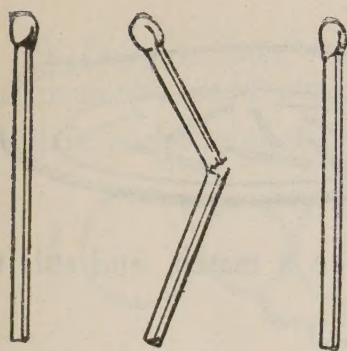
Fixed ideas !!! Look at the nice little square in the middle.



14. Here is a bent match across the mouth of a bottle. I place a sixpence on it. Can you get the sixpence into the bottle without touching either bottle or match or sixpence?

That seems to cut out all methods !

But not this one. Drop a little water on the bend of the match. Now notice how the match opens out and allows the coin to drop into the bottle.

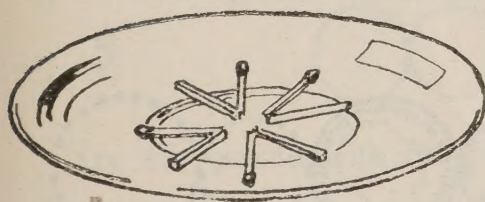
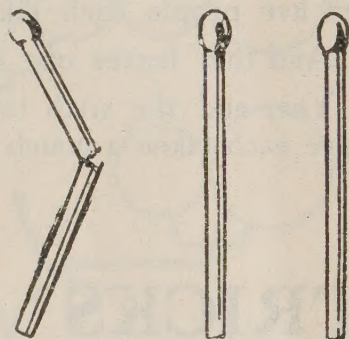


15. Here are three matches in a row.

The middle one is bent so that you can distinguish it from the others, and not for any other reason. The puzzle is to move the bent match from its position in the middle without touching it in any way.

No, you may not push it with another match — or with anything else.

What you can do is to move one of the other matches, to the end of the row :—



16. I have bent four matches in two at the middle, and placed them in this saucer with the bends touching. Now there are eight lines pointing out from the middle.

Without touching the matches in any way can you change this arrangement into a star?

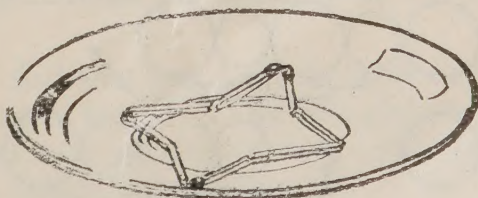
May we touch the matches with other matches?

No, not in any way at all.

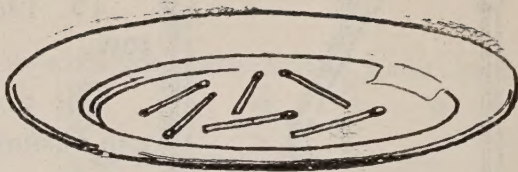
Then it does not seem to be possible.

And yet it is. Suppose we pour a spoonful of water into the space between the bends in the matches!

Now notice how the matches gradually open out. The ends are touching, and look! They have formed a star!



17. Look, here is a plate with six matches on it. It is a quite ordinary plate, and there is nothing special about the matches.



Is it possible for six people each to take a match, and still to leave one match on the plate?

Well, it does seem impossible.

And nevertheless it is the simplest thing in the world. You see five people each take a match——

And that leaves one match on the plate.

Yes, and the sixth takes plate and match, so that six people have each taken a match and there is still one match on the plate!

TRICKS WITH COINS

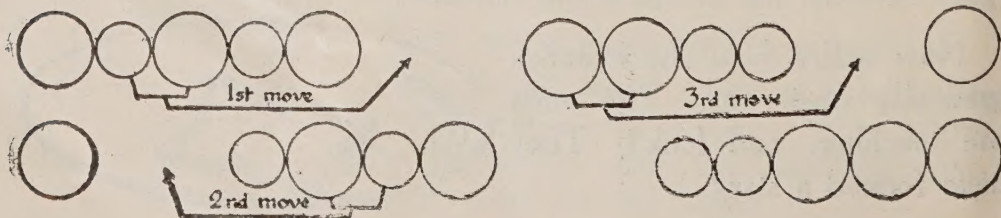
18. Can you do this?

I put out five coins—three pennies and two halfpennies. I put them alternately like this :



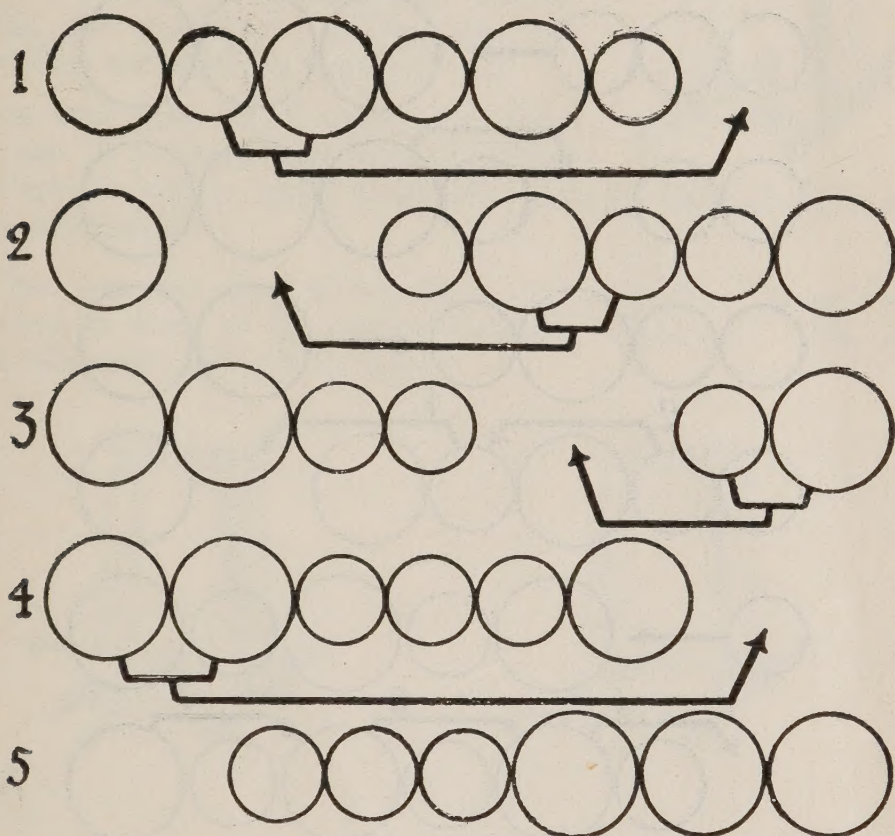
You are allowed to move two at a time without changing the order of the coins moved. You may move the first two to the end of the row. Afterwards you may move any two into the vacant spaces. You are to get the three pennies together and the two halfpennies together in three moves.

When you have done trying, perhaps you will allow me to show you. It is quite easy :



19. Suppose there were three of each—three pennies and three halfpennies—could you do it?

Here is the solution :



Try this puzzle with four and five coins of each value.

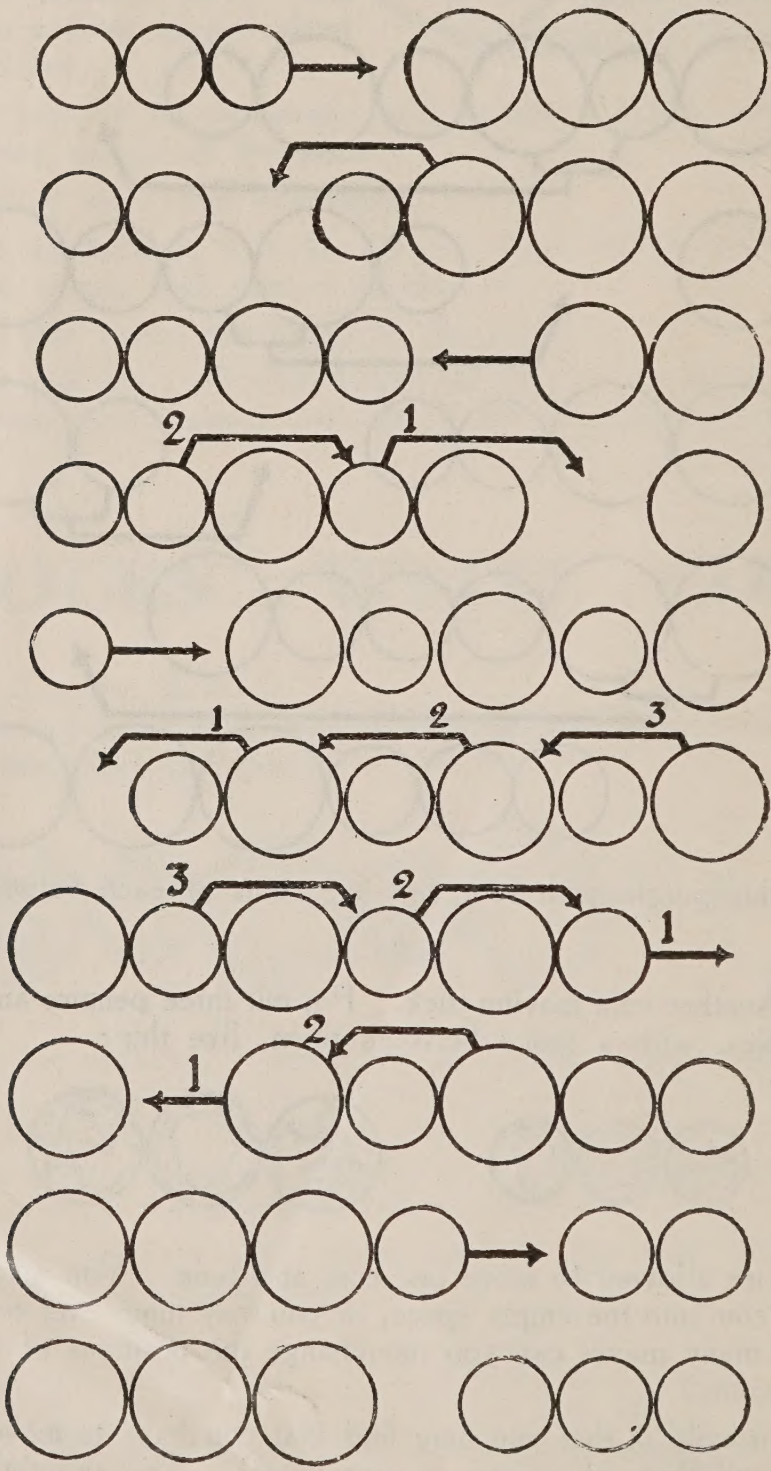
20. Another coin moving trick. Put out three pennies and three halfpennies, with a space between them, like this :



You are allowed to move one coin at a time. You may either move a coin into the empty space, or you may jump over one coin. In how many moves can you interchange the positions of the two sets of coins?

The trouble is that you may find that you have to move backwards, and that, of course, wastes moves. The straightforward way is the easiest. Do not let two pennies or two halfpennies come together on the side from which you move.

Make as many moves as you can from the right, then as many as you can from the left, and so on. The whole solution is :



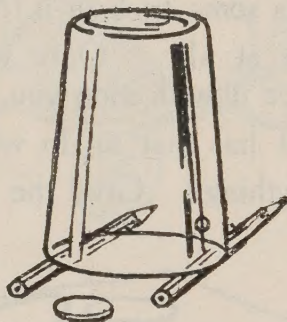
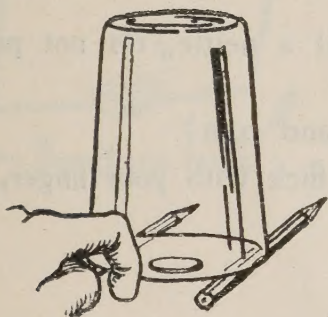
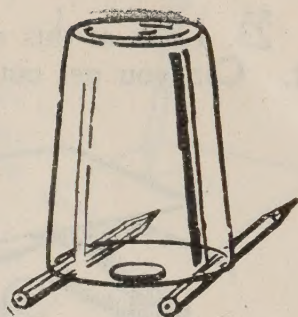
Try this trick with four coins of each value.

21. Look at the drawing. There is a sixpence under a tumbler, and the tumbler is propped up on two pencils.

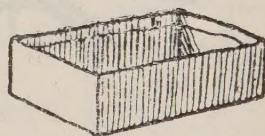
Can you get the sixpence out without moving the tumbler? You are not allowed to use anything to poke it out.

You may look for a catch—but there isn't one. It is simply a method of getting the sixpence out—a quite legitimate method, although it seems to be impossible.

When you have done trying other ways—try this. Scratch the tablecloth in front of the sixpence with the finger nail. The sixpence will come out in little jerks.



22. Now look at the three-penny bit in front of the match-box-tray. Can you blow the coin into the tray?



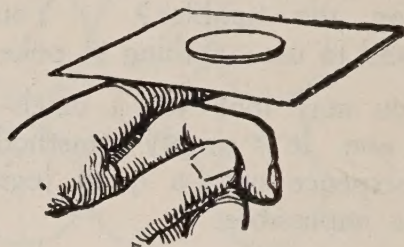
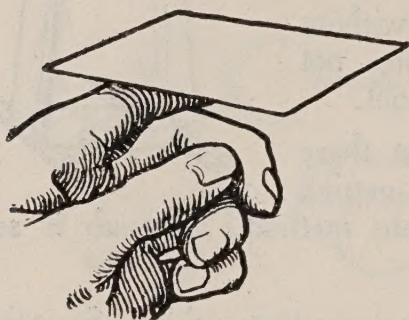
It is not easy, but keep on trying. When you are really tired of blowing—blow just behind the coin :

Blow here



You will find that the coin rises, because the air gets under it. Then with a little care you can blow the coin into the tray.

23. Look at this card on my finger. I have put a penny over it. Can you get out the card without dropping the penny?

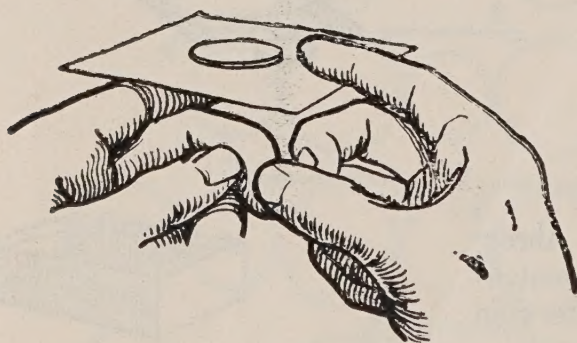


Pull the card very gently! There! The penny has dropped. Still more gently!! Why the penny moves with the card! There is some trick in it!!

None at all. Only when you pull a nettle, do not pull it gently or it will sting you.

What has that to do with the card and coin?

Everything! Give the card a hard flick with your finger, like this:



There you are! Off flies the card, and here is the penny.

24. A very easy little trick. Can you put out three pennies so that two heads and two tails show?

It does not seem very easy!

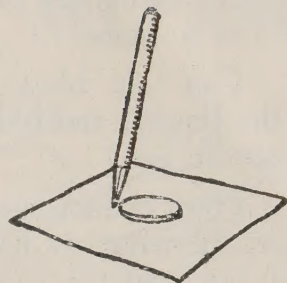
Well—put two of them down flat. That gives one head and one tail. Then take the other coin, and put it on end between the other two. Like this:—



25. Can you get a quart into a pint jug?

There are ways of doing everything!

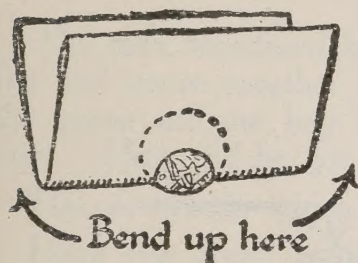
Put a halfpenny on a sheet of paper. Draw round it, and cut out the circle. Can you push a penny through the hole without tearing the paper?



It looks as if it were as hard as the pint and quart problem—but it isn't.

Fold the paper in two across the middle of the hole.

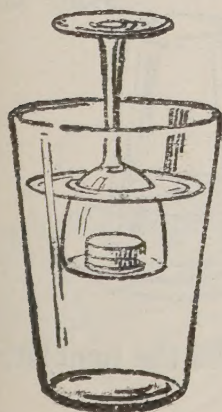
Put the coin edgeways in the hole. Then ease up the paper at the ends of the fold. You will find that the penny slips through easily.



SOME OTHER TRICKS

26. Don't take that pill for a moment, sir! Let me float it in the pill-box in this glass of water.

Now, can you send the pill-box to the bottom of the tumbler without wetting it?



Perhaps if we closed the box?

No lids allowed.

Well, do it yourself, if you can.

Quite easy. I take this wine glass, put it over the pill-box, and press it down. You see no water comes into the box. It is at the bottom—quite dry.

Your pill, sir! Quite dry!



27. A lighted candle !
And a funnel !!

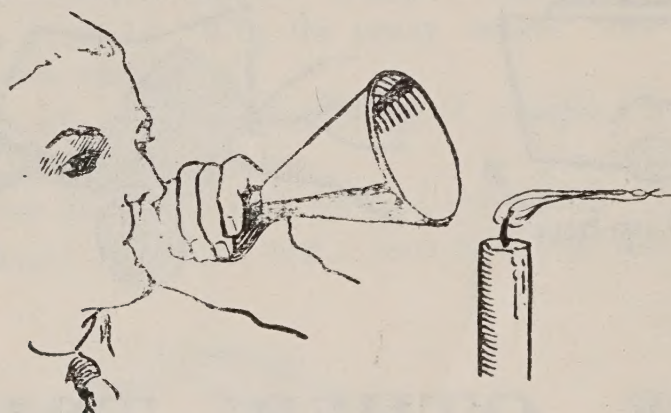
Can you blow down
the funnel, and blow the
candle out ?

How extraordinary ! I
am blowing as hard as
I can, and the candle is
still lighted.

Blow harder !

I am blowing as hard as I can !!!

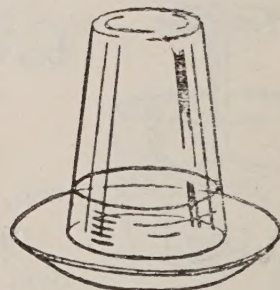
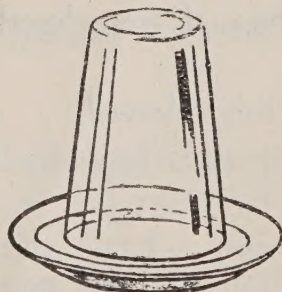
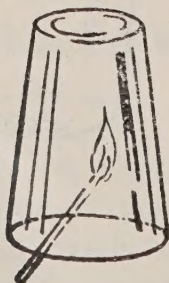
Allow me. You see I do not blow in the middle. I just raise
the funnel until the edge is nearly touching the flame. I blow.
And out goes the candle.



28. Here is a saucer of water and a tumbler? Can you get
the water into the tumbler without touching the saucer.

Why not scoop it up?

When you have tried that, just strike a match, hold the lighted
end in the tumbler for a minute, and put the tumbler in the saucer.



When the air in the tumbler cools, the water enters the tumbler.
Air pressure again !

CROSSING THE RIVER

A story for the kids!

Once upon a time a man arrived at a river. He had with him a fox, a goose, and a bag of corn. Look! This sixpence is the goose, the penny is the fox, and the pen-knife is the bag of corn.

There was a boat on the river, but it was only big enough to hold the man and one other—either the fox, the goose, or the bag of corn.

The man wondered how he should get across. If he left the fox and goose together, the fox would eat the goose. If he left the goose and the bag of corn together, the goose would eat the corn. How did he get across?

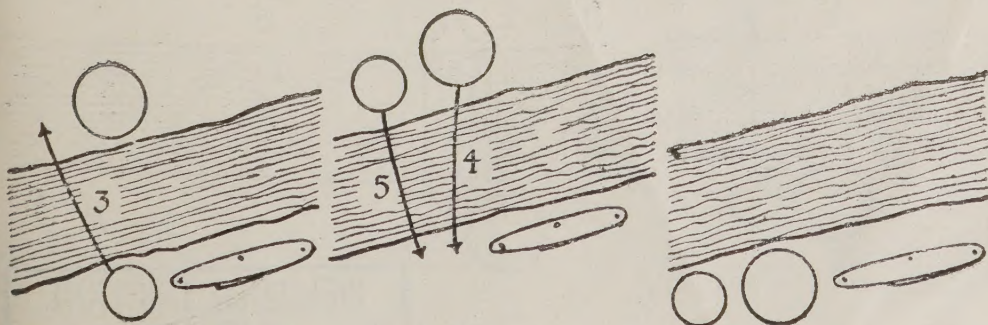
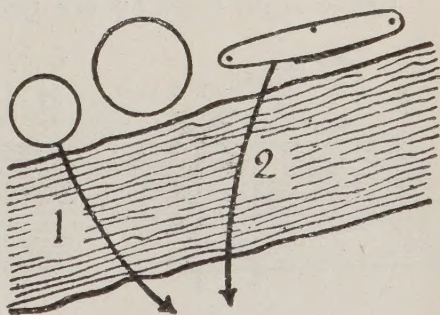
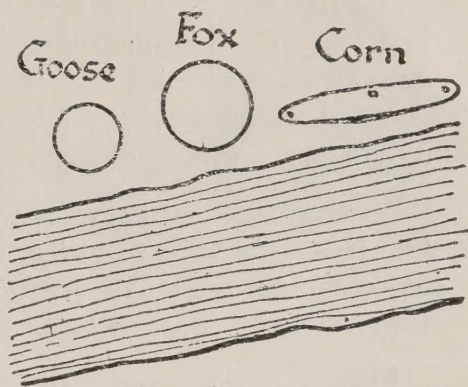
Has everybody given in? No?

Have you given in now? Yes?

First of all the man took the goose across, leaving the fox and corn together. Foxes do not eat corn.

Then he came back alone and took the corn across. He returned with the goose, leaving the corn on the far shore. He then crossed with the fox.

Back he came once more alone, and then took the goose across. So they were all happy on the far shore.



ANOTHER STORY FOR THE KIDS

A man and his two sons were on their travels. The man weighed sixteen stones and each of his sons weighed eight stones. I want you to remember this *very* particularly.



By and by they came to a river. The river was wide and deep—much too wide for them to jump across. There was a boat which would just carry sixteen stones.

How did they get across?

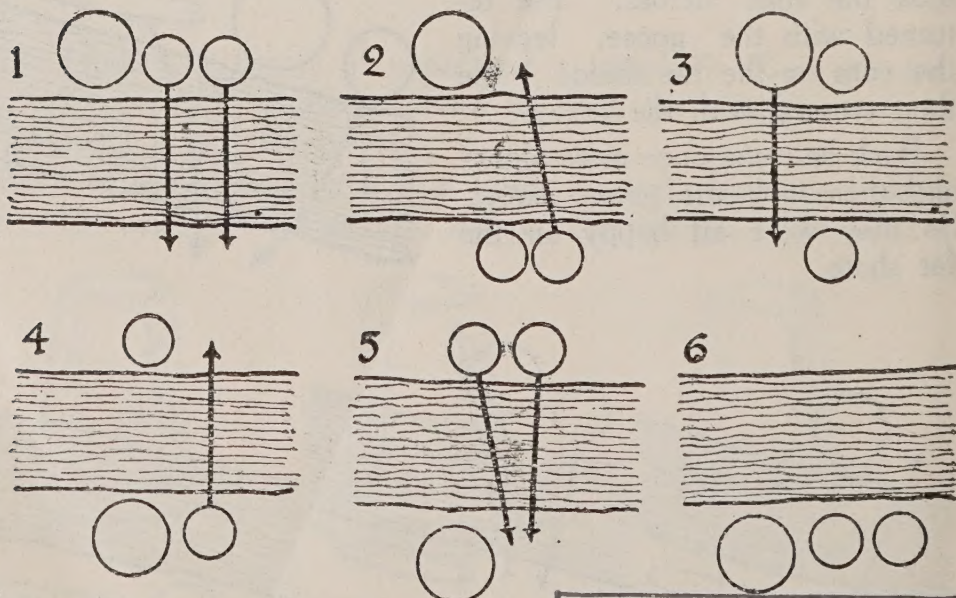
Here is the river. The penny is the father, and the half-pennies are the two sons.

First the father and then the two sons—easy!

Wait a minute. After the father had got across how was the boat taken back for the sons? The father took it back? Then he would be where he started.

First the two sons. One of the sons stayed, and the other took the boat back. Then the father crossed, and the second son took the boat back. Then the two sons crossed again.

Quite right! You are getting too sharp!!!



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*The doctor put her
on Bovril*



BOVRIL puts BEEF into you

Bovril puts
Beef
into you



WILL OWEN